

U.S. deal would free Arafat from seige

BY SUSAN SEVAREID
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM — Israel and the Palestinians approved a U.S. plan Sunday that would free Yasser Arafat from his besieged West Bank headquarters and place six men wanted by Israel in a Palestinian jail under the watchful eyes of American and British guards.

Israel's Cabinet adopted President Bush's proposal in a 17-9 vote. Senior Arafat aides said the Palestinian leader also accepted the plan, which ultimately would free him from the sights of Israeli snipers crouched in the buildings around him. Arafat's compound has been under a monthlong Israeli siege and he has not been able to travel freely since December.

"We expect the siege imposed on President Arafat's office to be lifted the day after tomorrow," said Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo. He said "technical details" would be discussed Monday with British experts.

Accepting the plan, according to an Israeli Cabinet minister, was important to avoid angering the United States over another Cabinet decision: Ministers decided to bar for now a U.N. fact-finding mission from investigating allegations surrounding Israeli army actions in a West Bank refugee camp.

After seven hours of Cabinet discussion, Communications Minister Reuven Rivlin briefed reporters, saying the United Nations had reneged on agreements with Israel. The team's composition and intentions, he said, made it inevitable that Israel would be unjustly blamed.

"This awful United Nations committee is out to get us and is likely to smear Israel and to force us to do things which Israel is not prepared even to hear about, such as interrogating soldiers and officers who took part in the fighting," he said. "No country in the world would agree to such a thing."

U.N. chief Kofi Annan hoped Israel would reverse its decision at a Cabinet meeting Monday.

Bush heralded "a hopeful day" after brokering the deal to end the Ramallah siege.

Bush renewed his demand that all parties in the conflict — the Israelis, Palestinians and Arab neighbors — meet their "responsibilities" to help end the conflict, but imposed special demands on Arafat.

"Chairman Arafat should now

seize this opportunity to act decisively in word and in deed against terror directed at Israeli citizens," Bush said. "He hasn't earned my respect. He must earn my respect by leading."

Bush's compromise plan would allow Arafat to travel in the Palestinian territories. Until the deal, Israel had said it would not allow Arafat out of his shell-shattered West Bank compound until it had custody of the six wanted men inside with him. Five of the six were wanted in connection with the October assassination of Israeli Tourism Minister Rehavam Zeevi. The sixth was accused of trafficking arms from Iran to the Palestinian territories.

Bush's proposal, according to Israeli officials, would have Israel standing by its "legitimate demand" that the six wanted men be handed over to Israel. But as long as British jailers and American representatives ensure they remain imprisoned, they apparently could stay in an isolated jail in Palestinian territory.

Asked how long they would remain jailed, Sharon spokesman Arnon Perlman responded: "I think they will remain in prison unless they are extradited to Israel."

Four of the six were convicted last week in a hastily convened, one-session Palestinian court and received sentences of one to 18 years; the two others have yet to stand trial in any court. The Palestinians had arrested the six and were holding them at a prison in Arafat's compound before the Israeli incursion. They were moved into Arafat's offices to keep them out of Israeli hands.

Abed Rabbo said the plan covers wanted men convicted by Palestinian courts.

Bush called Sharon on Saturday to propose that U.S. and British nonmilitary personnel guard the six, U.S. officials said. On Sunday night, U.S. and British consular officials met with Arafat in his Ramallah headquarters to convey the plan directly to the Palestinian leader.

Israel has kept Arafat confined to the compound since early December, aside from a few brief trips into the city of Ramallah. However, he has not been able to leave his office building since the March 29 incursion into the West Bank aimed at dismantling Palestinian militias behind deadly attacks on Israelis. Dozens of Palestinian gunmen have been killed, including some on Israel's most-wanted list, and more than 1,500 Palestinians remain in Israeli custody.

However, on Sunday, both Israel and the Palestinians accepted an American compromise plan aimed at ending Israel's blockade of Arafat's office, and negotiations continued toward resolving the deadlock in Bethlehem.

Invasion

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

It was not clear if the incursion marked a full invasion of the city, the only main West Bank population center that escaped Israel's large-scale military push that began March 29. Israeli troops also bypassed the desert oasis town of Jericho during their sweep.

Moving in force in response to a series of deadly Palestinian suicide bombing attacks, Israeli troops took control of the other main cities and fought house-to-house battles in the Jenin refugee camp and the old city of Nablus. The fighting ended two weeks ago, and Israeli forces withdrew from most of the towns.

In the Monday incursion, which began at 4:30 a.m., Israeli troops moved about 1 1/2 miles into Hebron and appeared to be concentrating on two specific areas, the witnesses said, indicating that the object was to make arrests. However, they said, it was the largest Israeli military move on the town in months.

On Thursday, about 20 Israeli tanks and armored vehicles entered Hebron briefly to arrest suspected militants. In that operation, Ahmed Bashir, a member of the Force 17, an elite security unit, was killed and at least four Palestinians were wounded, Palestinians said.

The incursion came as Israel's West Bank push, its largest military operation in two decades, appeared to be drawing to a close. Israeli forces had withdrawn from Palestinian towns, except Bethlehem, where a standoff at the Church of the Nativity continued, and Ramallah, where Israeli troops continued to lay siege to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's office.

Abuse policy for clergy delayed

National policy won't be decided until Catholic bishops meeting

BY KEN MAGUIRE
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON — Cardinal Bernard Law said Sunday that the creation of a national policy on sexually abusive priests would have to wait until a Catholic bishops conference, dashing hopes for immediate action stemming from the recent summit of cardinals.

"As a group of cardinal archbishops, we were able to say that there were certain things that we felt we would like to bring to that June meeting," Law told the congregation at the beginning of Mass at Boston's Cathedral of the Holy Cross. "We were not there to make decisions."

Cardinals across the country are reporting back after a two-day gathering in Rome, where they agreed they would recommend a process to defrock any priest who has become "notorious and is guilty of the serial, predatory sexual abuse of minors."

During the short statement, Law did not address calls for his resignation. But he referred to himself and his fellow priests as "wounded healers."

"These are not easy days to serve in the pastoral role that is mine," Law said during the special Mass dedicated to hope and healing.

"All of us are wounded healers," he said. "And when we remember that, we are able to be the people that we should be... When we are not that, we degenerate into anger and division. And that's not who we are. That's not who God calls us to be."

Law also called for a special day of prayer about the sexual abuse crisis, to be held during the Pentecostal celebrations, which start May 10.

Appearing on morning news shows Sunday, U.S. cardinals who attended the Vatican meeting last week indicated there still was no agreement on whether clergymen accused of sexual abuse should be expelled from the priesthood.

Speaking on "Fox News Sunday," Cardinal Theodore McCarrick of the Washington Archdiocese said he supported

ousting any priest accused in the future but said the cardinals were divided about whether the policies should apply to past allegations.

Cardinal Francis George of Chicago said there still needs to be some discussion on the "one strike and you're out" approach. Speaking on NBC's "Meet the Press," he said "mandated sentences" may not be the answer and that cardinals needed some discretion.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, at its June meeting in Dallas, is expected to vote on whether to approve a national policy that will be binding on every diocese.

The sex abuse scandal began enveloping the church in January after revelations that the Archdiocese of Boston had shuttled now-defrocked priest John Geoghan from parish to parish despite repeated allegations that he was a pedophile.

Geoghan has been accused of abusing more than 130 children, and is serving a nine- to 10-year prison sentence for abuse.

The calls for Law's resignation increased this month with the release of 1,600 archdiocese docu-

ments that reveal the Rev. Paul Shanley's involvement with the North American Man-Boy Love Association.

In civil lawsuits, the former "street priest" has been charged with repeatedly raping young boys during his tenure at a Newton parish in the 1980s.

Law has denied that his resignation was discussed at the Vatican and, through a spokeswoman, said he will not be leaving the archdiocese prior to a scheduled June 5 deposition in a civil suit filed by one of Shanley's alleged victims.

About two dozens protesters picketed outside the Boston Cathedral Sunday in rainy, cold weather. To enter the church, parishioners had to find their way through the protesters, police and the media.

"They don't see the good side of Cardinal Law," said Brother James Curren of the Little Brothers of St. Francis in Roxbury, a Catholic order. "A lot of people have made mistakes in judgment. No one defends the priests who committed sins."

Tornadoes hit parts of Tenn., Ky.

Wind, rain, hail wreck homes, kill one during night storms

(AP) — Tornadoes battered parts of Tennessee and Kentucky on Sunday, destroying homes and sending people to hospitals. One man was killed when his home was destroyed by non-tornado wind.

The tornados were part of a powerful storm system that swept across the Tennessee and Ohio valleys during the night

with heavy rain, large hail and high wind.

Tornadoes touched down in the Middle Tennessee counties of Rutherford and Cannon at about 7:30 a.m., emergency officials said. At least 10 people were injured in Rutherford County and an undetermined number of homes were damaged, emergency officials said.

In Cannon County, "the last report was three homes destroyed — two trailers and a log home," said emergency management director Faye Morse said. No injuries were reported.

It wasn't clear if the tornado

was the same one that touched down in Rutherford County.

When the storms crossed western Kentucky, straight-line wind destroyed a house at Irvington and killed a man who lived there, said Barry Hart, director of Breckinridge County Emergency Management. A woman found in the wreckage was taken to a hospital, he said.

Seven people in Irvington were taken to a local hospital and two of them had to be flown to University Hospital in Louisville for treatment of serious injuries, Hart said.

The Kentucky storms hit

around 4 a.m., when most people were asleep, said Ray Bowman, a spokesman for the state Division of Emergency Management.

"That's probably why we have more injuries than we usually do, because it's hard to alert people at that hour," he said.

Some 15 people were hospitalized at the town of Providence, Bowman said.

Along with the straight-line wind damage, tornados were reported elsewhere in Kentucky, downing power lines, trees and damaging homes.

Bomb in Russian market kills 7, injures 45

Interior minister calls bombing 'terrorist act'

BY YURI BAGROV
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VLADIKAVKAZ, RUSSIA — A bomb tore through a market crowded with people buying flowers to place on relatives' graves Sunday, killing seven people and injuring 45, officials said.

Large pools of blood mixed with metal and concrete fragments and the petals of flowers stained the market in the southern city of Vladikavkaz as inves-

tigators swarmed the area to look for clues.

Kazbek Dazntiyev, the region's interior minister, said the bomb contained an estimated 18 ounces of TNT and that its effects were magnified by being placed in a sturdy iron pipe.

"It was a terrorist act," he said. The bombing was the latest in a series of market blasts that have killed about 70 people in this city over the past three years.

Vladimir Kravchenko, head of the northern Caucasus prosecutor's office, speculated that the blast might have been set off to destabilize the region during Sunday's presidential elections in the neighboring republic of

Ingushetia.

Bombings are also a frequent technique of criminals warring for control of enterprises in Russia.

Lev Dzugayev, head of the regional presidential administration, said seven people were killed and 45 were wounded, 10 of whom remained hospitalized Sunday night.

The market was crowded with people preparing for the Orthodox Palm Sunday ritual of purchasing flowers and pussy-willows to place on relatives' graves.

In November, an explosion at another outdoor market on the outskirts of Vladikavkaz killed

five people and injured 60. Another market bombing in Vladikavkaz in 2000 killed six people and more than 50 died in a 1999 bombing in the city.

Vladikavkaz is located in the republic of North Ossetia some 950 miles southeast of Moscow. North Ossetia borders on the breakaway republic of Chechnya, where Russian troops have been battling rebels for 2 1/2 years.

Staying in Columbia this summer? Come write, design or take pictures for The Gamecock. Call 777-3914 for more information.

Cornell Arms
AN HISTORIC RESIDENCE

Efficiency	\$485
One Bedroom	\$545
Two Bedroom	\$580

Rent includes all utilities and cable TV.
All rates quoted are month to month.
(Leases available, prices subject to change)

Located across from the University Of South Carolina Horseshoe and the State Capital, Cornell Arms offers the premier location for downtown living.

(803) 799-1442
1230 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA, SC 29201

Take a Vacation in Education

Maymester/Summer School 2002

Everything you'll need to know is on the web
<http://summer.cofc.edu>

College of Charleston

Questions? e-mail our office summer@cofc.edu

Don't let anything derail your college education!

Affordable Birth Control

Planned Parenthood
803-256-4908